

United States Senate

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ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 27, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to thank you for issuing a major disaster declaration for the State of West Virginia in response to the severe storms and straight-line winds that occurred June 29, 2012 to July 10, 2012. I respectfully urge you to give immediate consideration to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's additional request for individual assistance for 24 counties severely affected by the storms.

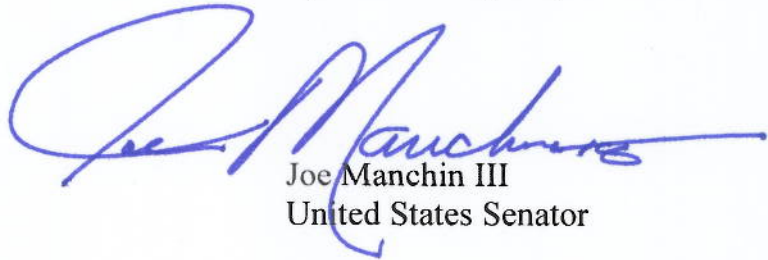
I personally visited an immeasurable number of individuals and business owners who were impacted by the unprecedented storms that hit my state. In addition to power outages and the subsequent loss of food, wages, and medicines, thousands of individuals from across my State found their private homes, barns, and sheds significantly damaged by wind, fallen trees, and flying debris.

I am so very proud of the work of our local leaders, first-responders, and National Guard. Our police and firefighters, many of whom personally suffered substantial losses to their homes and property, are still working overtime to rebuild their communities. In the aftermath of the storm, all West Virginians came together as neighbors helping neighbors. So many people offered a hand with cleanup, checked in on the elderly or donated food to those who lost all their groceries.

With that being said, the scope of these storms was devastating, and the inclusion of individual assistance to the major disaster declaration would provide much-needed aid to West Virginians who are struggling, not only with the costs of rebuilding, but also with the basic hardships of surviving.

On July 26, 2012, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin requested that individual assistance be added to the previously granted federal disaster declaration, under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act). I urge you to give every appropriate consideration to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's request, and come to the aid of these West Virginians who were so deeply and personally affected by this terrible, debilitating storm.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III", is written over the printed name and title.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

cc: Ms. MaryAnn Tierney
Regional Administrator
FEMA, Region III